	Case 2:21-cv-00828-JAD-NJK Docume	ent 1-1 Filed 05/03/21 Page 1 of 18			
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1	ACCESS TECHNOLOGIES SERVICES, INC.				
2	HANK FALSTAD AIBCA, ICC #0001259 AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF BUILDING COMPLIANCE ARCHITECTS™				
3	ACCESSIBILITY INSPECTOR/PLANS EXAMINER				
4	BOARD CERTIFIED ADA ARCHITECTT 10225 Button Willow Drive	M ENTERED KECEIVED			
5	Las Vegas, NV 89134-7595	COUNSEL/PARTIES OF RECORD			
<i>5</i>	Telephone: 702-649-7575	MAY - 3 2021			
7	ADA Architect for Plaintiff	CLERK US DISTRICT COURT			
		STATES DISTRICT COURT			
8	FOR THE D	ISTRICT OF NEVADA DEPUTY			
9					
10	Laura Bartel, an individual	2:21-cv-00828-JAD-NJK			
11	1561 Strauss Lane Twinsburg, OH 44087				
12	(330) 405-8984 Laurabartel6@gmail.com) COMPLAINT FOR DECLARATORY AND) INJUNCTIVE RELIEF			
13	Plaintiffs				
14	v.) [Civil Rights – Alleging Disability-Based			
15	Choice Hotels International, Inc.) Discrimination]			
16	Choice Hotels Circle #400 Rockville, MD 20850	}			
17	Stephen P. Joyce, CEO dba Comfort Inn	Ì			
	2641 W. Union Hills Drive	,			
18	Phoenix, Arizona 85027				
19	Defendants				
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	COMPLAINT FOR DECLARATORY AND INJUNCTIVE RELIEF				

INTRODUCTION 1 2 Hank Falstad, of ACCESS, told the plaintiff that he would take the case and get the buildings and 3 site ADA compliant. 4 Section 12183[®] of the ADA of 1990 and the Amendment Act of 2008 are all about accessibility of 5 buildings and sites. Section 12183 is 90% architectural, 5% litigation and 5% judicial. 6 Accessibility of buildings and sites is a component of architecture and has been a part of the 7 practice of architects for 60 years. Section 12205° is how the person with a disability engages the 8 attorney and the Federal Judge and Architect, and the Attorney General in Sections (Subpart E and 9 Section 12117[®], and all to help that person with a disability in Section 12188[®]. 10 11 The architect is a major informational resource needed to make the ADA Acts work for that disabled person. I, Hank Falstad, an ADA architect of ACCESS TECHNOLOGIES SERVICES, 12 INC. have been engaged by "Plaintiff," to get the buildings and sites of "Defendants" ADA 13 compliant to Section 12183. I, on behalf of the Plaintiff, am filing this case in Federal Court as the 14 ADA Acts require. 15 16 1. Section 12205 empowers that person with an ADA disability to 17 get that building and site ADA compliant. 2. Section 12205 gives that person with an ADA disability free 18 "Attorney Fees" to get that building and site ADA compliant. 19 3. Section 12205 gives that person with an ADA disability free 20 access to that "Federal Court" so that Federal Judge can order that 21 building and site owner to get that building and site ADA 22 compliant. 23 4. Section 12205 gives that person with an ADA disability free "costs" to get that building and site ADA compliant. That Board 24 Certified ADA ArchitectTM is a cost that identifies all items and 25

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elements of the building and site that are not ADA compliant.

That Board Certified ADA Architect will survey the property and

site for ADA compliance and the American Institute of Building

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Section 12117. Enforcement

(a) Powers, remedies, and procedures

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The powers, remedies, and procedures set forth in sections 2000c-4, 2000e-5, 2000e-6, 2000e-8, and 2000e-9 of this title shall be the powers, remedies, and procedures this subchapter provides to the Commission, to the Attorney General, or to any person alleging

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	discrimination on the basis of disability in violation of any provision of this chapter, or			
l	regulations promulgated under section 12116 of this title, concerning employment.			
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3	@AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT OF 1990, AS AMENDED			
4	(A) In general			
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6	(1) Availability of remedies and procedures			
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8	The remedies and procedures set forth in section 2000a-3(a) of this title are the remedies			
9	and procedures this subchapter provides to any person who is being subjected to			
10	discrimination on the basis of disability in violation of this subchapter or who has reasonable grounds for believing that such person is about to be subjected to discrimination			
11	in violation of section 12183 of this title. Nothing in this section shall require a person with			
12	a disability to engage in a futile gesture if such person has actual notice that a person or			
13	organization covered by this subchapter does not intend to comply with its provisions.			
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COMPLAINT 1 2 Plaintiff, Laura Bartel, (hereinafter the "Plaintiff"), through their undersigned architect, hereby files this Complaint and sues, Choice Hotels International, Inc., Choice Hotels Circle #400, 3 Rockville, MD 20850, Stephen P. Joyce, CEO, a Corporation, dba Comfort Inn, 2641 W. Union 4 Hills Drive, Phoenix, AZ 85027 (hereinafter, collectively, the "Defendants"), for injunctive relief, 5 architect's fees and litigation expenses (including, but not limited to, court costs and expert fees) 6 pursuant to Title 42 U.S.C. Public Health and Welfare, Chapter 126 - Equal Opportunity for 7 Individuals with Disabilities, Subchapter III – Public accommodations and services operated by 8 private entities starting with 42 U.S.C. §12181, et. seq., ("THE AMERICANS WITH 9 DISABILITIES ACT of 1990 [PL101-336] and the AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES AMENDMENTS ACT OF 2008 [PL110-325], the "FEDERAL ADA"). 10 11 JURISDICTION AND PARTIES 12 1. This is an action for declaratory and injunctive relief pursuant to Title 42 U.S.C. – Public Health 13 and Welfare, Chapter 126 – Equal Opportunity for Individuals with Disabilities, Subchapter III – 14 Public accommodations and services operated by private entities starting with §12181, et. seq. 15 (hereinafter referred to as the "Federal ADA"). This Court has subject matter jurisdiction over this 16 action under 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331 and 1345, and 42 U.S.C. §§ 3614(a) and 12188(b)(1)(B); pendent 17 and supplemental jurisdiction is proper under 28 U.S.C. § 1367 and thus, this Court has jurisdiction. 18 19 2. The remedies provided by the "Federal ADA" suits are brought under the Federal Civil Rights 20 Act 1964. 21 3. Venue is proper in this Court, pursuant to the ADA Amendments Act of 2008 (P.L. 110-325), 22 Section 12118. Enforcement, (a) in general, (1) Availability of remedies and procedures. 23 24 The remedies and procedures set forth in section 2000a-3(a) of this title are the remedies and 25 procedures this subchapter provides to any person who is being subjected to discrimination on the 26 basis of disability in violation of this subchapter or who has reasonable grounds for believing that 27

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such person is about to be subjected to discrimination in violation of section 12183 of this title.

Nothing in this section shall require a person with a disability to engage in a futile gesture if such person has actual notice that a person or organization covered by this subchapter does not intend to comply with its provisions. All professionals involved in this lawsuit are located in Las Vegas, Nevada; Federal ADA court, the DOJ Attorney General attorney, the American Institute of Building Compliance Architects, and Board Certified ADA Architect. **PLAINTIFF** 4. On or about and between February 09, 2015, the Plaintiff called to book a handicapped room in the Defendants' Facility known as Comfort Inn, located at 2641 W. Union Hills Drive, Phoenix, AZ 85027 (hereinafter sometimes referred to as "Defendants' Facility" or "Defendants' Property") encountered or had knowledge of the architectural barriers, violations of the "Federal ADA" as further enumerated and alleged in Paragraph below. Advocate's Statement: "I have requested a room with two beds with handicap accessibility at Comfort Inn 2641 W. Union Hills Drive, Phoenix, AZ, US, 85027. I called the hotel direct. They said they cannot accommodate this request because they don't have it. I could have a King bed but a room does not exist for double beds for handicap. When I asked for an email confirming this they refused. I then called head quarters at 1-800-300-8800 and they also refused to send me that in an email. I only have verbal confirmation that it does not exist but they will not take my reservation. Let me know how to proceed as I would hate to have anyone else experience this."

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5. At the time of Plaintiff's visit to the Defendants' Facility, prior to instituting the instant action, Plaintiff is a resident of the United State of America. Plaintiff suffers from what constitutes a "qualified disability" under the "Federal ADA". Plaintiff has a certain developmental disability which limits the use of the plaintiffs' legs and uses a wheelchair. The Plaintiff personally visited Defendants' Property but was denied full and equal access to and full and equal enjoyment of the facilities within Defendants' Property, which is the subject of this lawsuit.

6. The Plaintiff has visited, used, or attempted to use the property which forms the basis of this lawsuit on, about and between the dates above referenced, and but for the negligent discrimination encountered on the visit, plans to, and intends to, return to the property to avail themselves of the goods and services offered to the public at the property. The Plaintiff has encountered architectural barriers and discriminatory policies and procedures at the subject property. The barriers to access at the property have endangered safety. Plaintiff is a disabled individual who is currently deterred from patronizing a public accommodation due to Defendants' negligent failure to comply with the "Federal ADA" signed into law in 1990, and so has suffered an actual injury. Plaintiff is threatened with harm in the future because of existing building ADA violations and imminently threatened non-compliance with the "Federal ADA", and so has suffered imminent injury.

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SUBJECT PROPERTIES 1 2 10. All events giving rise to this lawsuit occurred in a County, State of the United States. Venue is 3 proper in this ADA Court as the premises are located in the State of the United States and 4 Defendants do business within the State of the United States. 5 11. Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §1331 and 28 U.S.C. §1343, this ADA Court has been given original 6 jurisdiction over actions which arise from the Defendants' violations of Title 42 U.S.C., Chapter 7 126, Subchapter III §12181 et seq. See also 28 U.S.C. §2201 and §2202. 8 9 AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS 10 COUNT 1 – VIOLATION OF THE "FEDERAL ADA" 11 12. On or about July 26, 1990, Congress enacted the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 12 ("ADA"), Title 42 U.S.C. §12101 et. seq. with an effective date of January 26, 1992, followed by 13 the Americans with Disabilities Amendments Act of 2008 ("ADA") on September 25, 2008, with an effective date of January 1, 2009. 14 15 13. Congress found, among other things, that: 16 (i) now some 70,000,000 Americans have one or more physical or mental disabilities, and this number shall increase as the population continues to grow older; 17 (ii) historically, society has tended to isolate and segregate individuals with disabilities, and, 18 despite some improvements, such forms of discrimination against disabled individuals 19 continue to be a pervasive social problem, requiring serious attention; 20 (iii) discrimination against disabled individuals persists in such critical areas as employment, housing, public accommodations, transportation, communication, recreation, 21 institutionalization, health services, voting, and access to public services and public facilities; 22 (iv) individuals with disabilities continually suffer forms of discrimination, including 23 outright intentional exclusion, the discriminatory effects of architectural, transportation, and communication barriers, failure to make modifications to existing facilities and practices. 24 Exclusionary qualification standards and criteria, segregation, and regulation to lesser 25 services, programs, benefits, or other opportunities; and, 26 (v) the continuing existence of unfair and unnecessary discrimination and prejudice denies people with disabilities the opportunity to compete on an equal basis and to pursue those 27 28

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1	opportunities for which our country is justifiably famous and costs the United States billions of dollars in unnecessary expenses resulting from dependency and non-productivity. Title 42 U.S.C., Chapter 126 §12101(a)(1)-(3), (5) and (8).
2	Title 42 0.5.C., Chapter 120 \(12101(a)(1)-(5), (5) \) and (6).
3	14. Congress explicitly stated that the purpose of the "Federal ADA" was to:
4 5	(i) provide a clear and comprehensive national mandate for the elimination of discrimination against individuals with disabilities;
6	(ii) provide clear, strong, consistent, enforceable standards addressing discrimination against individuals with disabilities; and,
7 8 9 10	(iii) invoke the sweep of congressional authority, including the power to enforce the fourteenth amendment and to regulate commerce, in order to address the major areas of discrimination faced on a daily basis by people with disabilities. Title 42 U.S.C., Chapter 126 §12101(b)(1)-(4).
11	15. Pursuant to Title 42 U.S.C., Chapter 126, Subchapter III §12181(7)(A)(B) and 28 C.F.R.
12	§36.104, Defendants' Property is a place of public accommodation in that it is an inn facility which provides lodging and other services to the public.
13	
14 15	16. Pursuant to Title 42 U.S.C., Chapter 126, Subchapter III §12181(7)(A)(B) and 28 C.F.R. §36.104, the building and/or Subject Facility which is the subject of this action is a public
16	accommodation covered by the "Federal ADA" and which must be in compliance therewith.
17 18 19	17. The Plaintiff is informed and believes, and therefore alleges that the Subject Facility has begun operations and/or undergone substantial remodeling, repairs and/or alterations since January 26, 1990.
20 21 22	18. Defendants have discriminated, and continue to discriminate, against the Plaintiff, and others who are similarly situated, by denying full and equal access to, and full and equal enjoyment of,
23	goods, services, facilities, privileges, advantages and/or accommodations at Defendants' Property, in derogation of Title 42 U.S.C., Chapter 126, Subchapter III §12101 et. seq., and as prohibited by
24	Title 42 U.S.C., Chapter 126, Subchapter III §12182 et. seq., and by failing to remove architectural
25	barriers pursuant to Title 42 U.S.C., Chapter 126, Subchapter III §12182(b)(2)(A) et. seq., where
26	such removal is readily achievable.
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AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT CLAIMS

19. The Plaintiff has been unable to, and continues to be unable to, enjoy full and equal safe access to, and the benefits of, all the accommodations and services offered at Defendants' Property. Prior to the filing of this lawsuit, the Plaintiff visited Defendants' Property and was denied full and safe access to all the benefits, accommodations, and services of the Defendants. Prior to the filing of this lawsuit, the Plaintiff personally visited, used or attempted to use the Defendants' Property, on or about dates above mentioned, with the intention of using and enjoying the Property. When Plaintiff realized that there were violations of the "Federal ADA" at the Property, Plaintiff began perusing and cataloging these violations. Plaintiff visited the property with the desire of enjoying it, and possibly publishing information regarding the quality and the accessibility of Defendants' facilities but was denied full and safe access to the facilities of Defendants' Property, and therefore suffered an injury in fact. In addition, Plaintiff continues to desire to visit Defendants' Property in the future but continues to be injured in that he is unable to and continues to be discriminated against due to the architectural barriers which remain at Defendants' Property, all in violation of the "Federal ADA".

20. The Defendants have discriminated against the individual Plaintiff by negligently denying the Plaintiff access to and full and equal enjoyment of the goods, services, facilities, privileges, advantages and/or accommodations of the buildings, as prohibited by Title 42 U.S.C., Chapter 126, Subchapter III §12181(7)(A)(B) et seq.

21. The Defendants have discriminated and are continuing to discriminate against the Plaintiff in violation of the "Federal ADA" by failing to, inter alia, have accessible facilities by January 26, 1992 (or January 26, 1993, if Defendant has 10 or fewer employees and gross receipts of \$500,000 or less). A preliminary inspection of the Defendants' Property has shown that violations exist.

22. Pursuant to the mandates of Title 42 U.S.C., Chapter 126, §12101, the Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board (Access Board) is the government agency who has the responsibility to write the safe harbor for design and construction to be in compliance with the "Federal ADA" law and published the following:

(i) ADA Accessibility Guidelines 28 CFR Part 36 (56 FR 35544, July 26, 1991).

1 2 3	(ii) ADA & ABA Accessibility Guidelines; Final Rule (published in the Federal Register on July 23, 2004, guidelines effective September 21, 2004), hereinafter referred to as "ADAAG".	
4	23. The Defendants' Subject Facility is in violation of Title 42 U.S.C., Chapter 126, Subchapter III	
5	§12181 et.seq., the ADA and 28 C.F.R. §36.302 et. seq., and is discriminating against the Plaintiff	
6	as a result of inter alia, the following specific violations, pursuant to the mandates of Title 42	
7	U.S.C., Chapter 126, Subchapter III §12188(a)(b) and §12181 et. seq. the ADA and 36 CFR Parts	
8	1190 and 1191, with an effective date of September 21, 2004.	
9	The American with Disabilities Amendments Act of 2008 P.L. 110-325	
10	Title 42 – The Public Health and Welfare	
11	Chapter 126 – Equal Opportunity for individual with Disabilities	
12	Subchapter III – Public Accommodations and services operated by Private Entities	
13	Section 12182 – Prohibition of discrimination by public accommodations	
14	(a) General Rule	
15	No individual shall be discriminated against on the basis of disability in the full and equal	
16	enjoyment of the goods, services, facilities, privileges, advantages, or accommodations of any	
17	place of public accommodation by any person who owns, leases (or leases to), or operates a place	
18	of public accommodation.	
19		
20	Hank Falstad, of ACCESS, said he would take the case and get the buildings and site ADA	
21	compliant. ACCESS documented the ADA finds of items and elements of the buildings and site not ADA compliant in an ADA accessibility inspection survey which is a part of this complaint,	
22	which covers some of the following items 302-1009.	
23	winen covers some of the following fields 302-1009.	
24	A. Building Blocks	
25	302 Floor or Ground Surface	
26	303 Changes in Level 304 Turning Space	
27	305 Clear Floor or Ground Space 306 Knee and Toe Clearance	
28	307 Protruding Objects	
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1 F. Special Rooms, Spaces, and Elements 2 Kitchens and Kitchenette 804 3 806 Transient Lodging Guest Rooms 811 Storage 4 5 G. Built-In Elements 6 902 Dining Surfaces and Work Surfaces 7 903 Benches 904 Check-Out and Sales and Service Counters 9 H. Recreation Facilities 10 1004 **Exercise Machines and Equipment** 11 1008 Play Area 1009 Swimming Pools, Wading Pools and Spas 12 13 24. Plaintiff has not and is not required under law to list each and every one of the violations of the 14 "Federal ADA" with specificity. The Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals has held that one visit to a 15 public accommodation and encountering or knowing of barriers in violation of the "Federal ADA", 16 which deter future visits to the public accommodation, confer standing on a plaintiff and the right to conduct a Rule 34 Inspection on the whole of the public areas of the public accommodation. 17 18 In so holding, we agree with Steger v. Franco, Inc., 228 F.3d 889 (8th Cir.2000), in which the Eighth Circuit held that a blind 19 plaintiff who had only once attempted to enter the defendant's building had standing to bring an ADA challenge. The plaintiff 20 was thwarted in his attempt to gain access to the men's restroom in the building because the signage did not comply with the 21 ADA. Id. at 893-94. Like that plaintiff, Doran has personally encountered certain barriers that bar his access to Holiday's 22 Paradise store. Further, the Steger court rejected the defendant's argument that the blind plaintiff could challenge the ADA 23 violation only as to the restroom he had attempted to access, stating that such a "narrow construction" of the ADA would 24 be "not only ... inefficient, but impractical." Id. See also Parr v. L & L Drive-Inn Restaurant, 96 F.Supp.2d 1065, 1080-81 25 (D.Haw.2000) ("This court is reluctant to embrace a rule of standing that would allow an alleged wrongdoer to evade the 26 court's jurisdiction so long as he does not injure the same person twice.... Plaintiff should not be required to encounter every 27 barrier seriatim... to obtain effective relief." (internal quotations 28

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and citation omitted)). We agree with the Eighth Circuit that Doran need not necessarily have personally encountered all the barriers that bar his access to the Paradise store in order to seek an injunction to remove those barriers. (Emphasis Added). Pickern v. Holiday Quality Foods Inc., 293 F.3d 1133 (9th Cir., 2002).

25. Defendants have discriminated against the Plaintiff by denying the Plaintiff access to full and equal enjoyment of the goods, services, facilities, privileges, advantages and/or accommodations of its place of public accommodation or commercial facility in violation of Title 42 U.S.C., Chapter 126, Subchapter III §12181 et seq. and 28 CFR 36.302 et seq. Furthermore, the Defendants continue to negligently discriminate against the Plaintiff, and all those similarly situated by failing to make reasonable modifications in policies, practices or procedures, when such modifications are necessary to afford all offered goods, services, facilities, privileges, advantages or accommodations to individuals with disabilities; and by failing to take such efforts that may be necessary to ensure that no individual with a disability is excluded, denied services, segregated or otherwise treated differently than other individuals because of architectural barriers and the absence of auxiliary aids and services.

26. Plaintiff is without adequate remedy and is suffering irreparable harm and damages. Plaintiff has retained the undersigned architect and is entitled to recover architect's costs, and litigation expenses from the Defendants pursuant to Title 42 U.S.C., Chapter 126, Subchapter III §12188(a) and 28 CFR §36.505; and as also listed in Regulation from Title III Section 36.505 which states that courts are authorized to award attorneys' fees, including litigation expenses and costs as provided in Section 12205 of the Act; the architect's fees are costs.

27. Defendants are required to remove the existing architectural barriers to the physically disabled when such removal is readily achievable for its place of public accommodation that has existed prior to January 26, 1992, 28 CFR §36.304(a); in the alternative, if there has been an alteration to Defendants' place of public accommodation since January 26, 1992, then the Defendants are required to ensure to the maximum extent feasible, that the altered portions of the facility are readily accessible to and usable by individuals with disabilities, including individuals who use wheelchairs, 28 CFR §36.402.

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1	DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL	
	The Plaintiff hereby demands a trial by jury on all issues so triable as a matter of right.	
2	The Flament neces demands a diar of fary on an issues so made as a matter of right.	
3		
4	` Respectfully submitted, ACCESS TECHNOLOGIES SERVICE, INC.	
5	TIOODSO TECHNOLOGIES SERVICE, INC.	
6	Date: February 6, 2021	
7	Harl Feel ted	
8	Hank Falstad, AIBCA, ICC #0001259	
9	American Institute of Building Compliance Architects™ Accessibility Inspector/Plans Examiner Board Certified ADA Architects™	
11	ACCESS Technologies Services, Inc. 10225 Button Willow Drive	
12	Las Vegas, Nevada 89101 Phone: (702) 643-7575	
13	Architect for Plaintiff	
14	,	
15		
16	ADA/03-ACCESS Advocates/00-Advocates/2021/Survey/COMFORT INN/Complaint/Comfort Inn_DR02.020621	
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